



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ORGANIZER JOINS TWO EL PASO AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
IN HEADING TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR MARIJUANA DISTRIBUTION OPERATION**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in El Paso this afternoon, 40-year-old Ruben Delgado of Del Valle, Texas, (a.k.a. "El Tio") was sentenced to 151 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to import and distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge David Briones ordered that Delgado pay a \$2,500 fine and be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term.

In February, Delgado's co-defendants and Horizon High School students—18-year-old Rene Humberto Perez and 19-year-old Rosalia Vega— were sentenced to 121 months and 46 months in federal prison, respectively, for their roles in the marijuana smuggling and distribution organization.

From September 2006 to August 2007, Delgado recruited Perez, who in turn recruited Vega and approximately 15 current or former Horizon High School students, to smuggle and transport marijuana loads from Juarez to El Paso then on to Oklahoma City. The marijuana loads, each weighing an average of 200 pounds, were typically transported in modified vehicle gas tanks.

The remaining defendants, mostly all of whom were drug couriers paid anywhere between \$3,000-\$5,000 per load, were successfully prosecuted in either Federal or state court.

The case was investigated by agents with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Customs and Border Protection and investigators with the El Paso Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Richard Watts prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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